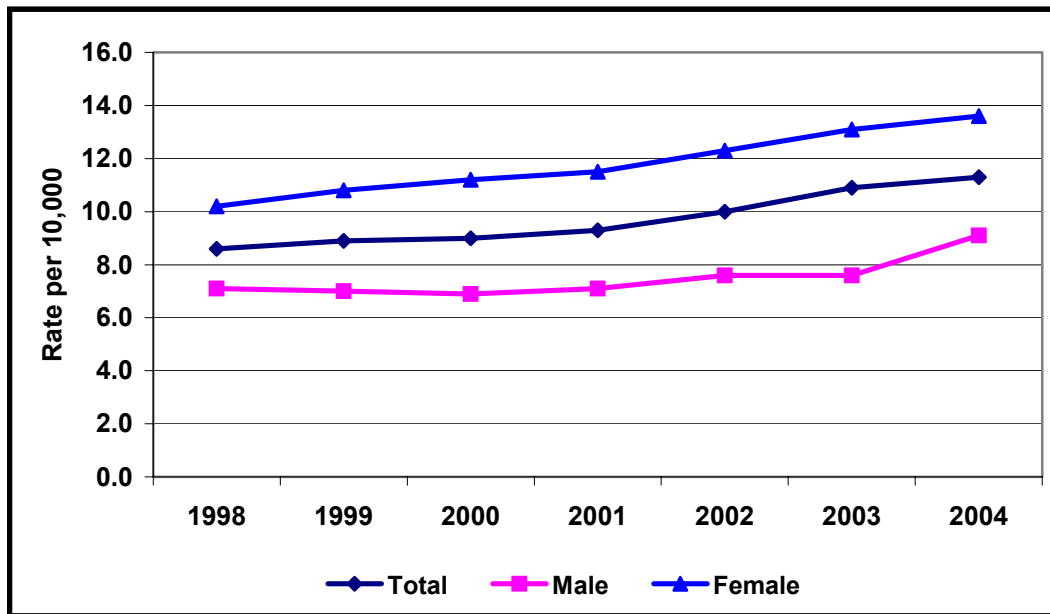


Chapter 3

Inpatient Hospitalizations for Self-Inflicted Injury in Maine

Between 1998 and 2004, there were 7,081 hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries in patients 10 years and older. Of those, 4,401 were female and 2,680 were male. Over this time period, hospitalizations for self-inflicted injury increased by roughly 33 percent, from an age-adjusted rate of 7.9 per 10,000 discharges in 1998 to 10.5 per 10,000 in 2004 (Figure 3.a). Over the same 7-year period, male hospitalization rates for self-inflicted injury increased from 6.3 to 8.4 per 10,000 discharges, while the female rate increased from 9.4 to 12.5 per 10,000.

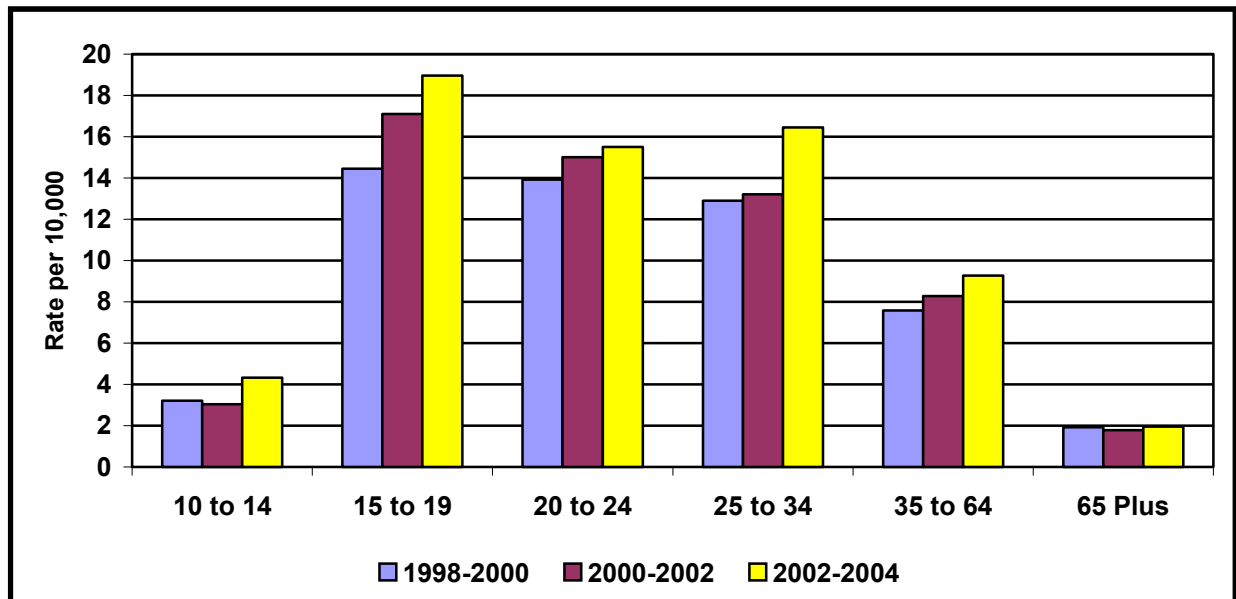
Figure 3.a. Year and Gender-Specific Rates of Hospitalization (per 10,000) for Self-Inflicted Injury in Maine, Ages 10 and Older, Age-Adjusted, 1998-2004.



*Data Source: Maine Uniform Hospital Discharge Database

Figure 3.b. presents 3-year rolling average hospitalization rates for self-inflicted injury by age for 3 periods: 1998-2000, 2000-2002, and 2002-2004. Hospital rates for self-inflicted injury appeared to increase over time in each age group except those 65 years and older. (Figure 3.b)

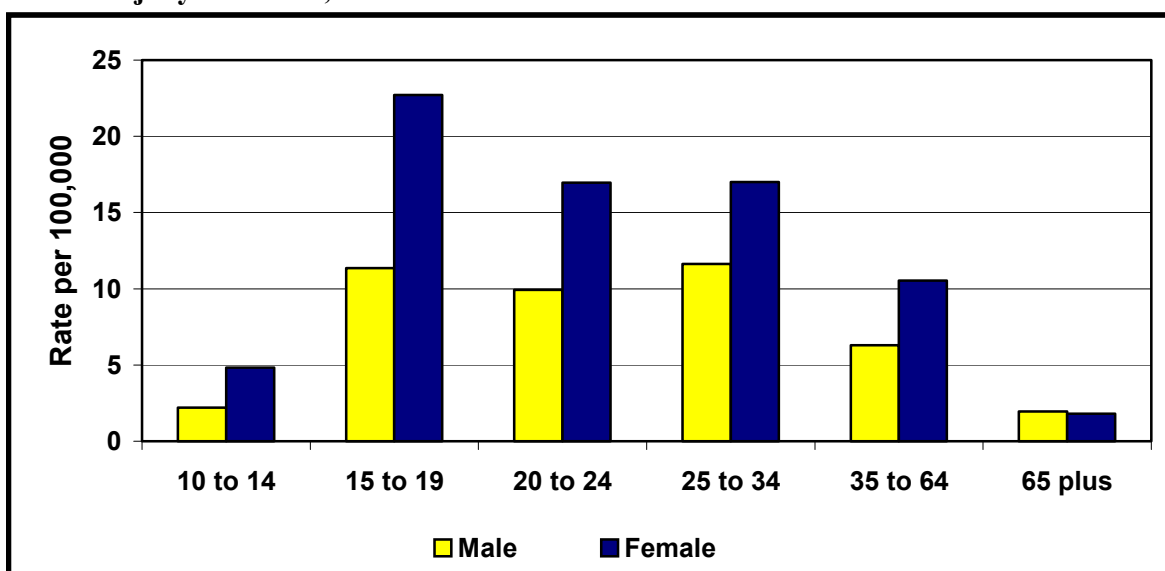
Figure 3.b. Age-Specific Rates of Hospitalization (per 10,000) for Self-Inflicted Injury in Maine, 3-Year Rolling Averages, 1998-2004.



*Data Source: Maine Uniform Hospital Discharge Database

Rates of hospitalization for self-inflicted injury were higher for females in every age group as compared to males, except for individuals over age 65, among whom male and female rates were approximately equal (Figure 3.c). Females between the ages of 15 and 19 exhibited the highest rate of self-injury hospitalization of any group in the state.

Figure 3.c. Age and Gender-Specific Rates of Hospitalization (per 10,000) for Self-Inflicted Injury in Maine, 1998-2004.



*Data Source: Maine Uniform Hospital Discharge Database

Table 3.a. illustrates that poisonings comprised the majority of hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries between 1998 and 2004. The number of hospitalizations for poisoning was 8.5 times higher than the next leading cause of hospitalization, cutting. Poisonings accounted for a greater percentage of self-inflicted injury hospitalizations in females (84 percent) than in males (75 percent). The percentages of female hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries from firearms or hanging were 0.5 and 0.4, respectively, as compared to 2.4 and 2.0 percent among males.

Table 3.a.: Cause-Specific Distribution of Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalizations in Maine, 1998-2004.

Causes:	Total	Percent	Male		Female	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Poisoning/gases	5,674	80%	2,001	75%	3,673	84%
Cutting/sharp objects	691	9.8	297	11	394	9.0
Firearms	86	1.2	64	2.4	22	0.5
Hanging/suffocation	70	0.9	54	2.0	16	0.4
Jumping	33	0.5	15	0.6	18	0.4
Drowning	4	0.06	3	0.1	1	0.02
Other	441	6.2	207	7.7	234	5.3
Late effects**	82	1.2	39	1.5	43	1.0
Total	7,081	100	2,680	100	4,401	100

*Data Source: Maine Uniform Hospital Discharge Database

**Late effects are defined as a hospitalization where a previous injury was the primary cause.